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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8315
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 5645
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 2912
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 6783
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 4016
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 1350
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 1255
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 3598
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 3985
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 8506
RHMFISS/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL
RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL
RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORP
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC
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TAGS: [ECON](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [SNAR](#) [SOCI](#) [BL](#)
SUBJECT: DISSENT IN EVO'S RANKS

Classified By: Amb. David N. Greenlee for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Giovanni Hervas, a social sector leader from the altiplano, told poloff on March 2 that there is a growing discontent among his peers with the Morales government. Hervas, who is associated with the Fejuve of El Alto (and will soon run for the presidency of that organization), the Yungas cocaleros and the Rural Workers Federation, said he wants to work with the Embassy on issues of common interest against the MAS government.

¶2. (C) Hervas stated unequivocally that his organizations "aren't behind Morales." He criticized Morales' proposal to depenalize coca beyond the current legal limits, stating that such an effort will increase competition for the traditional coca growers in the Yungas and bring down the price of the leaf. Hervas spoke with disdain about the MAS proposal for the Constituent Assembly (CA) because it fails to represent the indigenous or social sectors. He had similar criticisms of MAS threats to mobilize protests if Congress doesn't pass the CA enabling legislation, saying that "we don't want blockades." Hervas also expressed concern about Morales' cabinet, saying that they lack experience and vision.

¶3. (C) Comment: Hervas is associated with traditionally confrontational organizations from the altiplano which typically support President Morales. It is no small thing that his organizations are now beginning to express dissent. These concerns are being echoed in varying degrees by a number of social sector and indigenous contacts. Morales' ability to manage the reactions of these groups- his supposed allies- will be key to the medium-to-long-term success of his government. Regardless of our policy direction in Bolivia, working more closely with these social sector representatives on a wide range of issues seems most beneficial to USG interests. End comment.
GREENLEE